Questions to answer about *Hills Like White Elephants*

* Jig and the American are a modernist couple, cynical, amoral, demonstrating that lasting happiness is an illusion in a society that destroys people.  Show examples from the story of this. 1 par.
* The symbolism of the story parallels and amplifies the conflict between Jig and her American--the hills, the train station and its tracks and scenery, the beaded curtain separating the couple from the rest of "reasonable" humanity, and the train itself, along with the luggage, its stickers and its movement. Explain these symbols. 1 par.
* Train time in this story provides tension and makes us aware of the pressure this couple feels to try to resolve their opposite goals.  The train will arrive in 40 minutes, then in 5 minutes, and stay only 2 minutes.  Explain the symbolism and tension in this timing. 1 par.
* Jig and the American have different goals.  What are those goals, and how do their tactics during conversation help or hinder them reaching their goals?  (Hint: Be careful not to summarize the story but to explain who has the upper hand during milestone moments in their conversation--and how you can tell who has the upper hand.)